

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA**

ANGELINA RUCKMAN,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
v.)	Case No. CIV-21-264-GLJ
)	
KILOLO KIJAKAZI,)	
Commissioner of the Social)	
Security Administration,)	
)	
Defendant.)	

**OPINION AND ORDER AWARDING
ATTORNEY’S FEES TO THE PLAINTIFF UNDER THE EAJA**

Plaintiff Angelina Ruckman was the prevailing party in this action under the Social Security Act. Plaintiff now seeks an award of attorney’s fees in the amount of \$5,855.50 for 25.55 hours of attorney work, pursuant to the Equal Access to Justice Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d) [Docket No. 24]. The Commissioner has not filed a response, and the response time has expired.

Upon review of the record herein, the Court finds that the requested amount is reasonable and that the Commissioner should be ordered to pay it to the Plaintiff as the prevailing party herein. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d)(1)(A) (“Except as otherwise specifically provided by statute, a court shall award to a prevailing party other than the United States fees and other expenses, in addition to any costs awarded pursuant to subsection (a), incurred by that party in any civil action (other than cases sounding in tort)[.]”); *see also Manning v. Astrue*, 510 F.3d 1246, 1251 (10th Cir. 2007) (“The EAJA therefore permits

attorney's fees reimbursement to financially eligible prevailing parties, who make a proper application, and not to their attorneys.'').

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED that the Plaintiff's Motion for an Award of Attorney's Fees Under the Equal Access to Justice Act [Docket No. 24] is hereby granted and that the Government is hereby ordered to pay the above-referenced amount to the Plaintiff as the prevailing party herein. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that if the Plaintiff's attorney is subsequently awarded any fees pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 406(b)(1), said attorney shall refund the smaller amount of such fees to the Plaintiff pursuant to *Weakley v. Bowen*, 803 F.2d 575, 580 (10th Cir. 1986).

DATED this 8th day of March, 2023.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gerald L. Jackson", is written above a horizontal line.

GERALD L. JACKSON
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE